THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GRORGE FERNANDES):- (a) Some representations have been received against the use of explosives in North Sikkim Highway at Rafamkhola. In this regard it is stated that huge boulders had blocked the above road. Since these boulders could not be moved mechanically, controlled blasting was done to open the important road.

{b) and (c) BRO have been informed about the importance of preservation of ecology and environment and instructed to take all possible measures to minimise the use of explosives.

Firing incidents of Indo-Pak border

2661. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firing incidents on Indo-Pak border during the last six months;

(b) the number of persons killed and property damaged; and

(c) the measures taken to protect the lives and property of persons residing in border areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During the six month period from June to Nov. 1998 there were 182 incidents of exchange of fire on the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL). 1822 incidents on the Line of Control (LOC) and 175 incidents on the International Border (IB) in J&K. On Pak side 611 persons were reportedly killed/wounded. On our side 67 security personnel and 34 civilians were killed. Two hundred Seventy three security personnel and 116 civilians were wounded.

In so far as the border in Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat is concerned there were 3 incidents of unprovoked firing from Pak Rangers, in which one BSF personnel was killed and two were injured.

The Indian Army respe appropriately to any firing initiated Pakistan. Enemy weapon systems suppressed neutralised by effective from our guns. Further, with a view protecting the civilian population the c administration provide shelters bunkers and various schemes.

Fire and accidents at DRDO, Orissa

2662. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: V the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased state:

(a) the reasons for the fire accidents Chandipur Defence Research a Development Organisation in Orrisa.

(b) whether the matter has be investigated; and

(c) if so, the action taken against persons involved in the fire accidents'

THE MINISTER OF DEFENC (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (The cause of the fire was auto-ignition experimental propellant due to chemic deterioration.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply part (a).

Steps to make Navy self-sufficient

2663. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENC be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy is entirely depende. on foreign sources for submarines; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to make the Navy self-sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENC (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Mazagon Dock Limited Mumbai has constructed two submarines wit some material and equipment obtaine from foreign sources. Various steps have been taken towards production c submarines in India. Steps have also bee taken to indigenise various component

and systems to ensure that gradually, India has the capability for complete submarine construction. The Naval Dockyards carry out repairs and refits of all types of submarines.

भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को भू-आवंटन

2664. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत** : क्या रक्षा मंत्री मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार भारत-पाकिस्तान सीमा के निकट भारत में भूतपूर्व सैनिकों को भूमि आवंटित कर उन्हें बसाने की कोई योजना बना रही हैं, यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या प्रगति हुई हैं, और

(ख) क्या सरकार सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में कानून और व्यवस्था, घुसपैठ और तस्करी की समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए स्थानीय स्वायत्तशासी संस्थाओं से सहयोग प्राप्त कर रही है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) भूतपूर्व सैनिकों व अन्य व्यक्तियों को भूमि आंवटन का मामला राज्य सरकारों का विषय है । केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस उद्देश्य के लिए कोई योजना/स्कीम नहीं बनाई है ।

(ख) सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

भारतीयों नागरिकों की सुरक्षा

2665. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत**: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत ने पाकिस्तान की इस बार-बार दुहराई जाने वाली धमकी का प्रसंज्ञान लिया है कि उसके पास भारत के अनेक शहरों को 15 मिनट में तबाह करने की सैन्य क्षमता है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भारत सरकार ने पाकिस्तान की उक्त धमकी से निपटने के लिए क्या तैयारी की है और साथ ही भारतीय नागरिकों को सुरक्षा का विश्वास दिलाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज) : (क) और (ख) संचार माध्यमों की सूचनाओ के अलावा इस तरह की धमकी की अन्य कोई सूचना नहीं है ।

भारतीय की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाली सभी गतिविधियों पर सतत् नजर रखी जाती है और समुचित रक्षा तैयारी बनाए रखने के लिए समय-समय पर सभी आवश्यक कदम उठाए जाते हैं ।

Report on information technology

2666. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on information technology for defence industry partnership has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and;

(c) the action Government have taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Report is under study.

Inclusion of BEML in entity list of US Department of Commerce

2667. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has figured in the entity list of US Department of Commerce;

(b) if so, whether the Company has received any notice in this regard from US administration;

(c) if so, the details of implications thereof;

(d) the details of defence items/ machines imported by the company from USA during the last one year and those to be imported in the next six months; and

(e) whether Government have prepared any contingency plan to tackle the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRl GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In case, export restrictions are imposed by the US administration the production schedule of BEML, for manufacture of some equipment, could be affected.